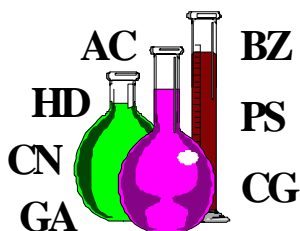


U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine



General Facts About Vomiting Agent Adamsite (DM)

218-41-1096

General

DM was first produced during World War I. Adamsite was not toxic enough for the battlefield, but it proved to be too drastic for use against civilian mobs; it was banned for use against civilian populations in the 1930s in the Western nations. DM was produced worldwide until superseded by the CN series of tear agents.

Synonyms

10 chloro- 5;
10 dihydrophenarsazine;
Adamsite.

Description

Light green to yellow crystals at room temperature; irritates nasal passages similar to pepper; no odor, but irritating.

Overexposure Effects

DM is a vomiting compound. It is normally a solid, but upon heating, DM first vaporizes and then condenses to form aerosols. It is toxic through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact. Adamsite is dispersed as an aerosol, irritating to the eyes and respiratory tract but not necessarily to the skin. Under field conditions, vomiting agents can cause great discomfort to the victims; when released indoors, they can cause serious illness or death. Symptoms include irritation of eyes and mucous membranes, coughing, sneezing, severe headache, acute pain and tightness in the chest, nausea, and vomiting. DM has been noted to cause necrosis of corneal epithelium in humans. The human body will detoxify the effects of mild exposures within 30 minutes of evacuation. Severe exposures may take several hours to detoxify and minor sensory disturbances may persist for up to one day.

Emergency and First Aid Procedures

Inhalation: remove victim to fresh air; wear a mask/respirator in spite of coughing, sneezing, salivation, and nausea; lift the mask from the face briefly, if necessary, to permit vomiting or to drain saliva from the facepiece; seek medical attention immediately.

Eye Contact: don a respiratory protective mask; seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact: rinse the nose and throat with saline water or bicarbonate of soda solution; wash exposed skin and scalp with soap and water and allow to dry on the skin; dust the skin with borated talcum.

Ingestion: seek medical attention immediately; carry on duties as vigorously as possible; this will help to lessen and shorten the symptoms; combat duties usually can be performed in spite of the effects of sternutators.

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